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Client Reference: 2980417US/Ka/hvi



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
SALMIVALLI

Confirmation Number: 1649

Application No.: 10/014,804

Group Art Unit: 2135

Filed: December 14, 2001

Examiner: Thanhnga B. TRUONG

Title: DETECTING COPIED IDENTITY OF TERMINAL EQUIPMENT

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action dated February 13, 2004, the date for response to which is May 13, 2004, the Applicant requests reconsideration of the pending claims 1-9, based on the following remarks.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kortessalmi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,073, "Kortessalmi"). The Applicant traverses the rejection because Kortessalmi fails to teach or suggest all the features recited by the claims.

The claimed invention is directed to the detection of copied mobile equipment identities. Certain mobile subscriber identities (IMSI) are associated with a mobile equipment identity (IMEI) and stored in a database. Based on a received IMEI, the database of IMSI/IMEI associations is checked. If the associated IMSI stored in the database does not match the received IMSI, then the IMEI may have been copied.

In contrast, Kortessalmi merely discloses a method for restricting the use of a subscriber identity to predetermined terminals. A number of allowable IMEIs are defined for at least one IMSI and stored in a home location register HLR. The system accesses the HLR based on the IMSI, and compares whether the IMEI of the terminal is among the allowable

IMEIs associated with the subscriber identity. If this is the case, use of the terminal is permitted.

Unlike the claimed invention, Kortesalmi fails to teach or disclose, inter alia, "checking whether there is a record in the database, which contains a mobile equipment identity corresponding to the mobile equipment identity transmitted by the mobile station, but whose mobile subscriber identity does not correspond to the mobile subscriber identity the mobile station has transmitted." Kortesalmi uses the received IMSI (not the received IMEI, as in the claimed invention) in its inquiry to the HLR. (Step 72 of Fig. 7.) Then, the received IMEI is checked against the list of IMEIs in the HLR to determine whether the IMEI is among the allowable identities for the received IMSI.

In other words, the claimed invention associates a set of IMSIs with a given IMEI, while Kortesalmi associates a set of IMEIs with a given IMSI. The results are different. The claimed invention achieves an indication of a possibly copied mobile equipment identity, while Kortesalmi prevents the misuse of a copied subscriber identity. Moreover, if a given IMSI has no corresponding IMEI entries in the HLR, then Kortesalmi cannot identify whether the mobile equipment is being used illegally. In contrast, the claimed invention can detect such illegal use.

Accordingly, Kortesalmi fails to teach all the features recited by the rejected claims. As a result, Kortesalmi cannot anticipate any of claims 1-9. At least for this reason, therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

All rejections and objections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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